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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/889,838	01/24/2002	Franz Laetmer	10191/1808	1541

26646 7590 07/23/2004

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EXAMINER

OLSEN, ALLAN W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1763

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/889,838

Applicant(s)

LAERMER ET AL.

Examiner

Allan Olsen

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-25 and 27-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25 and 36-54 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-24 and 27-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 35 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

Claim 35 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 36. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15, 17-24 and 27-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuwabara So et al. in Japanese Patent Publication 09-232738 (hereinafter, So).

So teaches etching a substrate with a plasma generated with energy coupled from 300 watts of 13.56 MHz RF energy. So teaches pulsing the 300 watts of 13.56 MHz RF power by on-off modulating the RF energy with an on-off, or pulsation frequency of 68 kHz. So teaches using a duty ratio of 50 % or a 1:1 mark-to-space ratio, wherein the packets of RF energy that are provided during the on periods have a square wave form. So teaches an additional layer of modulation such that the above described frequency modulation is subjected to a 1000 Hz on-off modulation with a 50 % duty ratio (or 1:1 mark-to-space ratio). See example 2, page 3 and figure 2a-2c.

Claims 15-17, 20-23, 28, 29, 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitsuta Yoshie et al. in Japanese Patent Publication 06-342770 (hereinafter, Yoshie).

Yoshie teaches a method for anisotropically etching silicon with a plasma generated with energy coupled from 180 watts of 13.56 MHz RF energy. Yoshie teaches pulsing the 180 watts of 13.56 MHz RF power by on-off modulating the RF power. Yoshie teaches using a duty ratio of 80 % or a 4:1 mark-to-space ratio. Yoshie teaches providing an additional layer of modulation such that the frequency modulation described above is further on-off modulated with a 67 % duty ratio (or 2:1 mark-to-space ratio). See page 4 paragraph [0020] and figure 3.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 4, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the applied references do not teach the claimed mark-to-space ratio of 1:2 to 1:100. The examiner notes, for example, figure 2c of JP 09-232778 wherein the during the T3 portion of one T3/T4 cycle there are four T1 periods during which the power is on and three T2 periods during which power is off. In the example depicted in figure 2, T3 = T4, therefore, the composite mark to space ratio over the entire T3/T4 cycle is 4:14.

Allowable Subject Matter

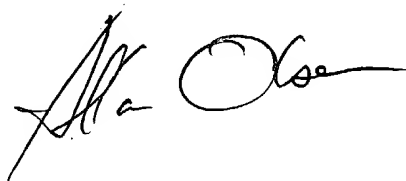
Claims 25 and 36-54 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Olsen whose telephone number is 571-272-1441. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 1-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Mills can be reached on 571-272-1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Olsen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Allan Olsen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1763